

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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P 092350Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1970

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6109

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP PRESS REACTION TO PM PRESS CLUB REMARKS

1. TWO ITEMS, QUOTED BELOW, APPEARED IN NOVEMBER 10  
AUSTRALIAN PRESS, BEARING ON WHITLAM'S REMARKS AT  
NOVEMBER 8 PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON IN WHICH HE GRATUITOUSLY  
INSULTED THE PRESIDENT. THIS WAS WHITLAM'S SWAN SONG AS FOREIGN  
MINISTER, BEING SUCCEEDED BY SENATOR WILLESEE.

2. EDITORIAL IN MELBOURNE AGE STATES IN PART: QTE HAVING  
A HIGH REGARD FOR ONE-SELF IS NOT NECESSARILY A VICE,  
UNLESS IT IS EXPRESSED TOO OFTEN BEFORE THE NATIONAL  
PRESS. HAVING A CASUAL DISREGARD FOR SOME OF THE PERSONAL  
DISCIPLINES OF PRIME MINERSHIP CAN, HOWEVER, BECOME A  
REAL VICE IF IT INTRUDES ON NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE  
PRIME MINISTER WAS TWICE GUILTY OF PERSONAL INDISCIPLINE  
ON THURSDAY -- ONCE WITH A GRATUITOUS INSULT TO PRESIDENT  
NIXON AND ONCE WITH A CATTY LITTLE SNARL AT HIS LABOR  
COLLEAGUE (AND PRESENT), THE ACTU LEADER (MR. R.J.  
HAWKE).

3. QTE IT IS FASHIONABLE TO INSULT PRESIDENT NIXON AT  
THE MOMENT. THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE HAVE  
EMBRACED THE FASHION AND CAN PROPERLY ARGUE THAT THE  
PRESIDENT THOROUGHLY DESERVES IT. WHETHER HE DESERVES  
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IT OR NOT, IT IS NO FASHION FOR PRIME MINISTERS OF

FRIENDLY NATIONS, PARTICULARLY ONE WHO HAS ALREADY HAD TO  
MEND CANBERRA-WASHINGTON BRIDGES SO IDLY TORN DOWN BY  
STUPID MINISTERIAL COMMENTS. IT WAS ALL THE WORSE FOR  
BEING A DISPROVED RUMOR. BY REPEATING IT, MR. WHITLAM  
HAS PUBLICLY LABELLED THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF  
STATE AS LIARS, WHICH SEEMS TO US A PRETTY SERIOUS ACT  
EVEN FOR THE GREATEST FOREIGN MINISTER IN AUSTRALIA'S  
HISTORY...

4. QTE WHILE THE NIXON INSULT WAS FOOLISH, RATHER THAN  
MERELY TACTLESS, THE HAWKE BARB WAS NO MORE THAN TACTLESS.  
YET BOTH WERE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY. EACH MUST MAKE THE PRO-  
CESS OF GOVERNMENT MORE DIFFICULT. AND NEITHER CAME WELL FROM  
THE MOUTH OF A PRIME MINISTER FRESH FROM GREAT SUCCESS ABROAD  
AND IN NO NEED AT ALL OF SELF-GLORIFICATION OR CHEAP  
APPLAUSE. UNQTE.

5. BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH WILLESEE, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
COLUMNIST COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON ABOVE SUBJECT: QTE WHERE  
MR. WHITLAM ON THURSDAY LAST ACCUSED THE US GOVERNMENT OF  
PUTTING ITS MILITARY FORCES ON NUCLEAR ALERT FOR DOMESTIC  
PURPOSES WITHOUT CHECKING HIS FACTS, ONE SUSPECTS SENATOR  
WILLESEE WOULD HAVE CHECKED HIS FACTS AND THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT  
MAKING THE STATEMENT, EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE. UNQUOTE.

GREEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOLLOW-UP PRESS REACTION TO PM PRESS CLUB REMARKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, AS, US, (WHITLAM), (WILLESEE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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